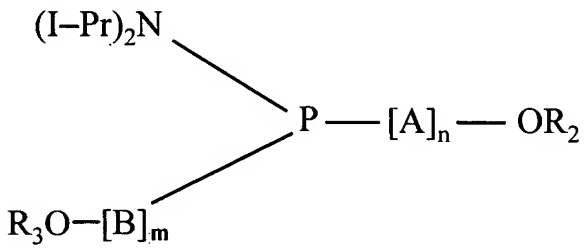
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below, without prejudice or disclaimer. This claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings.

1. – 69. Cancelled

70. (New) A compound of the formula:



wherein

A is selected from the group consisting of –(OCH_2CH_2)–, –$(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)$–, and grafted–$(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}$–$(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}$–;

B is selected from the group consisting of –(OCH_2CH_2)–, –$(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)$–, and grafted –$(OCH_2CH_2)_{m1}$–$(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{m2}$–;

n is 0 – 50;

n1 is 0 -50;

n2 is 0 – 50;

m is 0 – 50;

m1 is 0 – 50;

m2 is 0 – 50;

I-Pr is isopropyl;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of H, –CH_3, alkyl, phenyl, -CH_2CH_2CN, and –$CONH_2$;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, –CH_3, alkyl, phenyl, -CH_2CH_2CN, and –$CONH_2$;

71. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein n is 0 – 20, m is 0 – 20, n1 is 0 – 20; n2 is 0 – 20; m1 is 0 – 20 and m2 is 0 – 20.

72. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, n is 1; m is 0; and, R_3 is $-CH_2CH_2CN$.

73. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, n is 2; m is 0; and, R_3 is $-CH_2CH_2CN$.

74. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; n is 3-20; m is 0; and, R_3 is $-CH_2CH_2CN$.

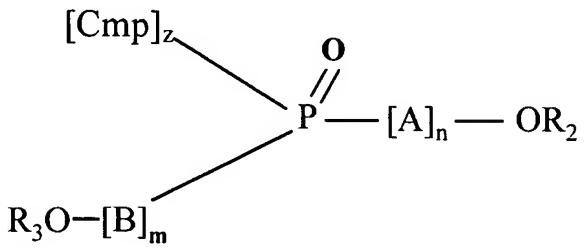
75. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$; n is at least 1; m is 0; and, R_3 is $-CH_2CH_2CN$.

76. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$; B selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$; n is 1 – 50; n1 is 1 – 50; n2 is 1 – 50; m is 1 – 50; m1 is 1 – 50; and, m2 is 1 – 50.

77. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; B is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; n is 2; m is 2; R_2 is CH_3, or CH_2CH_3; and, R_3 is CH_3, or CH_2CH_3

78. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; B is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; n is 3-20 and m is 3-20; R_2 is CH_3, or CH_2CH_3; and, R_3 is CH_3, or CH_2CH_3.

79. (New) The compound of the formula:



wherein Cmp is selected from the group consisting of a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

A is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$;

B is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{m1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{m2}-$;

n is 0 - 50;

n1 is 0 - 50;

n2 is 0 - 50;

m is 0-50

m1 is 0 - 50;

m2 is 0 - 50;

z is at least 1;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of H, $-CH_3$, alkyl, phenyl, $-CH_2CH_2CN$, and $-CONH_2$; and,

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, $-CH_3$, alkyl, phenyl, $-CH_2CH_2CN$, and $-CONH_2$.

80. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein n is 0 – 20; m is 0 – 20; n1 is 0 – 20; n2 is 0 – 20; m1 is 0 – 20; and, m2 is 0 – 20;

81. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1 - 15.

82. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-30.

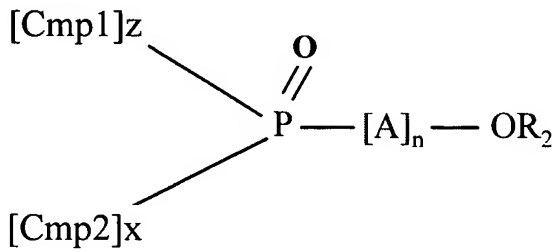
83. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-100.

84. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-15.

85. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-30.

86. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-100.

87. (New) The compound of the formula:



wherein Cmp1 is selected from the group consisting of a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

Cmp2 is selected from the group consisting of nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

A is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$;

n is 0 - 50;

n1 is 0 - 50;

n2 is 0 - 50;

x is at least 1;

z is at least 1; and,

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of H, $-CH_3$, alkyl, phenyl, $-CH_2CH_2CN$, and $-CONH_2$.

88. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein n is 0 – 20; n1 is 0 – 20; and, n2 is 0 – 20.

89. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is at least 1; and, x is at least 1.

90. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.

91. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.

92. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.